## **Montana Employment First Initiative**

The Montana Developmental Disabilities Program believes that employment and inclusion in communities is important in the lives of individuals in services. All working-age individuals in services should have the opportunity to participate in meaningful work in integrated community employment, earn at least minimum or competitive wages, and enjoy the benefits of community employment. The choice of the employment setting considered must use person centered planning concepts and should be based on informed choice. Although other employment options are valued as a pathway toward integrated employment, paid work in the community should be the primary service considered during the planning process.